

Docket No. 00-02a

**REMARKS AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

This application is being filed as a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/923,974, filed August 7, 2001, which has now been allowed.

The specification and drawing in this application have been amended to correspond to those amendments made in the parent application. No new matter has been included.

By this amendment, the claims of the original application have been canceled and a new set of claims directed to the fixed center die module and to a method for manufacturing a tubular structure, which were withdrawn from the parent application, have been included herewith. The filing fee has been calculated according to this amendment.

This preliminary amendment is being submitted along with a copy of the original U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/923,974 and I hereby verify that the attached papers are true copies of the original application as filed.

Since this application is a continuing application of its copending parent application referred to in the Specification as amended herewith, wherein applicants submitted copies of prior art information in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98 and wherein the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office cited other information so that copies of such information need not be provided by applicants in this application according to the guidelines set forth in the third paragraph of item A(2) of MPEP §609, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner of this application, in accordance with the last paragraph of MPEP §2001.06(b), indicate in the next Office Action that such prior art information has been reviewed so that no separate citation of the same prior art need be made in this application.

In view of the above, an Action on the merits of this application, as amended, and an Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 10, 2003